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ALLEY By McClatchy Newspapers Service

Cobey Seeks Mineral King Road Speed-Up

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SACRAMENTO — State Sen. James A. Cobey today introduced a concurrent resolution in the special session of the California Legislature asking for the "prompt selection, adoption and determination of the location of State Highway Route 176."

This is the road known to Tulare County residents as the Mineral King Access Road, which will play a key role in the Mineral King development planned by Walt Disney Productions.

The Merced Democrat, a re-election candidate whose new 15th Senatorial District will include Tulare County, points out in his resolution that the Division of Highways has not yet undertaken the studies which are a prerequisite to the official location of the Mineral King route by the California Highway Commission.

U.S. Cost Share

The resolution says that a major portion of the cost of the requested preliminary planning work may be made available by the federal government pursuant to the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

The access road was included in the State Highway System by the legislature last year, although it had not been so recommended by the Division of Highways.

The inclusion was made because of the proposed commercial development of the area. However, because it had not been recommended by the state planners, no current feasibility studies or routings have as yet been initiated.

In the resolution Cobey asks that "upon notification of federal participation in this project, or at "such other time as may be appropriate if no such participation is indicated, the California Highway Commission and the Division of Highways of the Department of Public Works are requested to undertake all steps necessary to bring about the prompt selection, adoption and determination of the location of State Highway Route 276."

In speaking to the Tulare County Chamber of Commerce earlier Robert Hicks of Walt Disney Productions said "the whole of the Mineral King development is dependent upon an access road through the area."

Tentative Schedule

The tentative time schedule Hicks presented would call for a one-year feasibility study, 18 months in design, and two and a half to three years for construction. The resolution by Cobey could reduce the time schedule on the earlier phases of the road.

Make Reunion Plans